

**REMARKS**

Applicant has overcome the Examiner's objection to claim 8 by removing the term "at step (b)" from the claim as recommended by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) on Toyoda (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,966). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "a requester to transmit a request to a recipient to which the image data stored in the storage device is to be sent, wherein the recipient is requested to designate contents of a conversion processes to be performed to the image data; [and] a first receiver to receive from the recipient a recipient's designation of the contents of the conversion processes." Toyoda does not disclose or suggest such features.

Toyoda discloses a capability exchange section 31, cited by the Examiner as disclosing applicant's previously recited requester. However, the capability exchange section 31 does not transmit anything to a recipient as recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore, the server 13A, cited by the Examiner as disclosing the first receiver, also fails to disclose or suggest that anything is received from the recipient. More specifically, as noted by the Examiner, the server 13A merely maintains a list of registered users.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Toyoda. Independent claims 7 and 8 recite features substantially similar to those of claim 1 quoted above, and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 12 and 13 depend from allowable claims and are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claims 2-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Toyoda in view of Iwazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,742). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Iwazaki fails to overcome the deficiencies of Toyoda detailed above. Iwazaki does not disclose or suggest "a requester to transmit a request to a recipient," as recited in claim 1, nor has

the Examiner cited Iwazaki as providing such a disclosure. Accordingly, claim 2-5 and 9-11 are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **325772028200**.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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